

**STATE SENATOR • MICKEY SWITALSKI • 10TH DISTRICT**

# Switalski Press Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
OCTOBER 4, 2005**

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## Switalski Continues Campaign Reform Efforts

*Switalski bill requires real-time contribution reporting*

**(Lansing)**- State Senator Michael Switalski (D-Roseville) has continued his efforts to strengthen Michigan's campaign finance laws with a bill introduced on September 27 that would require political committees to report campaign money before they can spend it.

"The current law has not served as an effective deterrent to those that are breaking the rules," said Switalski. "Some campaigns and political committees file their statements and reports late on purpose so that their contributors and expenditures can remain secret until after the election. The fines are insignificant and are considered to be the small price of doing business. I have introduced a nonpartisan bill that would end this abuse."

Senate Bill 780 would require candidates and political committees to file their contributions electronically with the Secretary of State before it can be spent on political activities, such as political mailings and lawn signs.

"The bill would make it easier to track these contributions and see how they are used, helping to contribute to improved enforcement and catching campaign finance violators," said Switalski.

In January, Switalski also introduced Senate Bills 31 and 84, which would increase the penalty for failing to file a campaign finance report from \$1,000 to \$5,000 and would require campaign finance reports from candidates running in local elections to be available on the Internet for public view.

"These bills would increase the public's right to know who contributes to a particular campaign or political action committee, how these contributions are used and to see how that contribution plays out in public policy," said Switalski. "Money in political campaigns are a necessary evil but it does not have to be a secretive process. These bills promote the fundamental right of openness in campaigns."

Senate Bills 31, 84 and 780 are currently in the Senate Government Operations Committee where they await further consideration.

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